



WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

www.washoecounty.us

CM/ACM
Finance
DA
Risk Mgt.
HR
Grant Mgt.

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 26, 2016

DATE: April 6, 2016
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Aaron Kenneston, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program
(775) 337-5898, Akenneston@WashoeCounty.us
THROUGH: Al Rogers, Management Services Director
(775) 328-2017, arogers@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Approve the creation of two (2) new positions in the Office of the County Manager authorized by the Board of County Commissioners and as evaluated by Human Resources and Nevada PERS to include (1) position of Fire Services Community Coordinator at pay grade CN and one (1) position of Fire Protection Officer at pay grade CI to provide fire suppression and emergency services to the area of unincorporated Washoe County that is located north of Township 22 and includes the town of Gerlach, Nevada. The cost of the new positions will be fully offset within the adopted annual County Manager's budget with existing funding or with a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant at a total estimated cost of [\$0] adjustments. (Washoe Commission District 5)

SUMMARY

This item recommends the Board of County Commission approve the creation of two (2) positions in the Office of the County Manager including one (1) Fire Services Community Coordinator and one (1) Fire Protection Officer to provide fire suppression and emergency services to the area of unincorporated Washoe County that is located North of Township 22 and includes Gerlach, Nevada..

These positions will serve to provide continuity of operations for Gerlach Fire Services to maintain the fire station and equipment, recruit volunteers and develop a sustainable program, and ensure coverage for medical and fire issues in the large geographic area.

Staff has submitted a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant that could support these positions for up to two (2) years. These positions are necessary regardless of funding source. During this period options will be explored and a program developed to ensure sustainability of fire services in northern Washoe County and the Gerlach, Nevada area. Determination on success of grant funding will occur approximately June 1, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM # 562

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

Washoe County has traditionally provided for fire services in this area by use of a Volunteer Fire Department. Over the past decade this model has become increasingly difficult to sustain. The volunteers, while dedicated and well-intentioned, have struggled to achieve and maintain the standards required of a remote fire department. The training, equipment maintenance required to protect citizens and reduce liability for the County are extremely difficult for a rural volunteer to maintain.

Currently the Gerlach fire station is staffed through a temporary agreement with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). TMFPD has provided staff since the resignations of the Gerlach Volunteer Fire on December 31, 2015.

This Board of County Commissioner action will allow staffing of the Gerlach station with the new Fire Services Community Coordinator and Fire Protection Officer beginning in Fiscal Year 2017. The two job class specifications have been submitted to the State of Nevada to determine PERS public safety eligibility.

By implementing this Fire Services Community Coordinator (FSCC) and Fire Protection Officer (FPO) model, the County will have direct representatives to work with the community, establish mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities, maintain facilities and equipment, as well as recruit and establish a sustainable organization with training for volunteers.

The FSCC position is based upon the previous County Fire Services Coordinator with the addition of fires suppression duties to ensure that the fire department can respond to emergencies during this rebuilding/sustainment phase. The FPO position is required to operate the emergency vehicles with intermediate Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) duties to ensure that the fire department can respond to ambulance calls during this rebuilding/sustainment phase. The two positions may also receive an "Assignment Differential" which is currently \$98.08 per pay period.

The intent is to sustain the FSCC and FPO through a SAFER Grant for a two-year period. The County Management Services Division, through the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program, will work diligently during this period to transition into an efficient County-sustained model for 2018 and beyond.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the anticipated start date of the new positions is July 1, 2016. FY17 budget authority will be reallocated to cover the associated personnel and operating expenses. No additional General Fund budget appropriations are being requested.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to Approve the creation of two (2) new positions in the Office of the County Manager authorized by the Board of County Commissioners and as evaluated by Human Resources and Nevada PERS to include (1) position of Fire Services Community Coordinator at pay grade CN and one (1) position of Fire Protection Officer at pay grade CI to provide fire suppression and emergency services to the area of unincorporated Washoe County that is located north of Township 22 and includes the town of Gerlach, Nevada. The cost of the new positions will be fully offset within the adopted annual County Manager's budget with existing funding or with a (SAFER) grant at a total estimated cost of [\$0]; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget adjustments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to Approve the creation of two (2) new positions in the Office of the County Manager authorized by the Board of County Commissioners and as evaluated by Human Resources and Nevada PERS to include (1) position of Fire Services Community Coordinator at pay grade CN and one (1) position of Fire Protection Officer at pay grade CI to provide fire suppression and emergency services to the area of unincorporated Washoe County that is located north of Township 22 and includes the town of Gerlach, Nevada. The cost of the new positions will be fully offset within the adopted annual County Manager's budget with existing funding or with a (SAFER) grant at a total estimated cost of [\$0]; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget adjustments.